



# ***COMMUNITY RESOURCES, INC.***

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## **ACADEMIC MENTORS PROJECT - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS**

### **What is the Academic Mentors Project?**

The Academic Mentors Project matches highly motivated 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade Denver Public School students with community volunteers who are accomplished professionals. The student meets with a mentor to learn more about a particular career, or to increase the student's understanding and competence in an area of ability or interest. The student and mentor work together to complete a short term project that demonstrates some aspect of what the student learned during the mentorship. The student is then expected to present the project to his class.

The Academic Mentors Project has been serving outstanding DPS students for 30 years. Since its inception in 1984, more than 2000 students have participated.

### **Who are the mentors?**

Community volunteers willing to share their time and expertise with an interested student are recruited to serve as mentors. The volunteers must complete an application and undergo a background and reference check.

### **What do students do with their mentors?**

Students can work with their mentors in a laboratory, studio or courtroom, in the classroom or backstage – at the location best suited to learning more about a career or field of interest.

### **Where does the mentorship take place?**

Students may meet with their mentor in a lab, an office, a courtroom or a location that best suits the planned activity. **Parents are responsible for student transportation.**

### **How long does the mentorship last?**

The suggested time period is for a **total** of six hours. Depending on individual schedules and the nature of the mentorship, this means the student may meet with his/her mentor for one full day for one or two half-days, or for an hour a week for six weeks.

### **Who can participate in the Mentors Project?**

Students in grades 5 through 12 (and at least 10 years old) who possess the independence, maturity, interest and motivation to explore a topic in-depth with a mentor may be nominated. Nominations are accepted from teachers, parents and principals.

**(Please see other side)**

## Does this program cost anything?

There is no cost to the student, family or school. Any materials for projects, admission expenses or other expenses are the responsibility of the family. The Mentors Project is funded by the DPS Gifted and Talented Program and local foundations and organizations.

## How long does it take to be matched with a mentor, and what steps are involved in the process?

Once a student's nomination is received, it takes six weeks to a few months (sometimes longer) to identify an appropriate mentor for the student. Here are the steps involved:

1. Teacher, student and parent discuss the program, complete the student nomination form and send the form to Community Resources, Inc.
2. Each nomination is reviewed as it arrives in our office, stamped with the date received, and prioritized by that date. CRI accepts 80 students each school year and many variables are considered in an effort to make the best possible matches. **Students are accepted to the program based on their nomination form and interviews with teachers and parents.**
3. CRI's project manager contacts the parent and teacher in order to obtain more information about the student's specific interests and experience.
4. The student is notified of his/her acceptance/non acceptance to the program.
5. If accepted, an appropriate volunteer mentor is identified and recruited to work with the student. This recruiting and screening process takes a **minimum** of six weeks, and depending on the topic area, can sometimes take several months.
6. Once a mentor is identified, an initial meeting between the mentor, the student, a parent and the CRI project manager is scheduled. The teacher is also invited to attend, when possible. The purpose of this session is for the mentor and student to meet each other, discuss objectives, plan activities to be included in the mentorship, talk about a potential project and set dates and times for remaining meetings.
7. The mentorship begins. Student and mentor meet on a one-to-one basis at the prearranged times. Parents are responsible for **all transportation** during the mentorship. **The mentor is not allowed to transport a student at any time.** The project manager is available throughout the mentorship to answer questions and to assist with coordination whenever necessary.
8. After the mentorship is over, the student is required to complete a project and present it to his or her class. This event is often attended by the mentor, parents and the project manager. Please contact Laura Kent to discuss scheduling.
9. All participants, student, parent, teacher, mentor are expected to complete evaluations at the end of the mentorship. Students are expected to send a thank you note to their mentor.

This information is to help familiarize you with the Academic Mentors Project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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Project Manager  
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